

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:BA
APPROVED BY AF/W-TWMSMITH
-----040056 181503Z /46
R 172309Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ML, US

SUBJECT: CALL BY MALIAN AMBASSADOR

1. MALIAN AMBASSADOR SIMA CALLED ON AF/W JANUARY 16 AT HIS REQUEST FOR A BRIEF REVIEW OF US/MALIAN RELATIONS PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO BAMAKO FOR A CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING NOW SCHEDULED FOR LATE JANUARY, EARLY FEBRUARY.

2. WE REVIEWED QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPAL INTEREST UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADS.

A) AID - WE SAID THAT FY 70 BUDGET FIGURES WERE NOT YET PUBLIC, BUT THAT MALI WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE SOME SATISFACTION FROM THE BUDGET WHEN IT IS PUBLISHED. IN PARTICULAR, THE BUDGET SHOWED CONTINUING AND INCREASED SUPPORT FOR THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

B) PL-480 - WE INFORMED SIMA THAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO PROVIDE 10,000 TONS OF GRAIN, IN RESPONSE TO
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MALI'S REQUEST.

C) MILITARY TRANSFERS - WE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE FIGURES IN THE '79 BUDGET WERE NOT YET PUBLIC, WE THOUGHT HE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE BUDGET WOULD REFLECT

THE ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO LIMIT TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE

TRANSFERS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. SIMA SHOWED NO SURPRISE AT THE NEWS. WE AGREED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM AS SOON AS FURTHER INFORMATION BECAME PUBLIC.

D) REGIONAL AFFAIRS - WE SAID WE TOOK PARTICULAR SATISFACTION FROM THE INCREASING STRENGTH AND ACTIVITY OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY ECOWAS AND THE CILSS. WITH REGARD TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, WE WERE PLEASED BY THE IMPROVEMENT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH GUINEA, A COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE KNEW MALI MAINTAINED A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP. WE NOTED OUR CONCERN AT THE CONTINUATION OF THE SAHARAN PROBLEM AND COMMENTED THAT MALI MUST ALSO BE CONCERNED BY THE FACT THAT THE POLISARIO OCCASIONALLY TRANSITED NORTHERN MALI. SIMA AGREED, AND BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED MALI'S EFFORTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A RESOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, NOTING MALI'S ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. SIMA DESCRIBED MALI'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AS GOOD. HE COULD SHED NO LIGHT ON NIGER PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE'S VISIT TO BAMAKO.

CHRISTOPHER

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